UNA ESPECIE NUEVA DE LA FAMILIA *ELASMODEMIDAE* Leth. & Sev. (1896) DE LA REPUBLICA ARGENTINA

(*Hemiptera-Heteroptera, Reduvioidea*)

por

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Entre el material no determinado de la colección de *Heteroptera* del señor Juan M. Bosq, de Buenos Aires, encontré un ejemplar que, después de examinado, resultó ser una especie nueva de la pequeña y bastante rara familia sudamericana *Elasmodemidae*, Lethierry & Severin (1896), hasta ahora desconocida en la República Argentina. Como esta familia es poco conocida y su género único *Elasmodema* Stal (1858) fué colocado en varias familias, antes de formar su propia familia, pienso que no estará de más decir algunas palabras de su historia.

En el año 1858, en su famoso trabajo: "Bidrag till Rio Janeiro - Traktens Hemipter - Fauna", Stal describió el nuevo género y la nueva especie *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal (1858), y los colocó provisoriamente en los *Reduvites*, porque después de una descripción muy corta, dice: "genus... loco insertim, Aradides con Reduvinis conjungens". Es verdad que esta especie, como otras del mismo género, a primera vista más se parecen a los Arádidos, que a los Reduvíidos, Muy aplanada, de color pardo obscuro y amarillo testáceo o fusco, se asemeja mucho a alguna especie de *Aradoidea*. Solamente el tercero y el cuarto segmentos de la antena, son filiformes y las patas anteriores colocadas como una pinza delante del cuerpo, producen duda a un observador atento. En su trabajo monumental: "Enumeratio Hemipterorum", así como en otros de sus trabajos posteriores, Stal nunca mencionó más este género.

En 1873, Walker 2) coloca el género *Elasmodema* Stal e *Isodermus* Erichson en *Aradidae*, pero anota que quizás estos géneros están más aliados con *Nudirostres* que con *Corticolae*, y que pueden formar una familia nueva.

Lethierry & Severin 3) en su "Catalogue Général des Hémiptères", en el año 1896, crean una nueva subfamilia *Elasmodemidae*, (1) en la cual colocan los géneros *Elasmodema* Stal y *Joppeicus* Put., pero dejan esta subfamilia en *Aradidae*.

Dos años después, en 1898, Bergroth 4) saca el género *Joppeicus* Put. de la subfamilia *Elasmodemidae*, pero el género *Elasmodema* Stal quedó donde estaba.

Costa Lima 5) en 1940, otra vez coloca juntos a *Elasmodema* Stal y *Joppeicus* Put. en una familia *Joppeicidae* de la superfamilia *Reduvioidea*, no tomando en consideración los trabajos de China 6), quien definitivamente resolvió la cuestión de *Joppeicus* Put., colocándolo en la familia *Lygaeidae*, después que Reuter 7) lo colocó en la propia familia *Joppeicidae*, y esta familia la colocó, primero en *Aradoideae*, y luego en *Reduvioideae*.

En 1943, Usinger 9) no conociendo de vista *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal, describió un nuevo género y nueva especie, proveniente del Paraguay: *Elasmocoris setigerus* Usinger, y creó para ésta una nueva subfamilia *Elasmocorinae* Usinger, colocándola en la familia *Reduviidae*. De *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal, Usinger solamente dice que quizás esté aliada a su nuevo género *Elasmocoris*, pero ésta necesita ser comparada con el tipo de Stal.

Entretanto, Wygodzinsky 10) logró reunir en la localidad del tipo de Stal, algunos ejemplares del *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal y luego encontró también en Brasil *Elasmocoris setigerus* Usinger. Después de examinarlos y compararlos, Wygodzinsky hizo caer la subfamilia *Elasmocorinae* Usinger y el género *Elasmocoris* Usinger en sinónimos de la subfamilia *Elasmodeminae* Leth. & Sev. y el género *Elasmodema* Stal, creando la segunda especie del mismo *Elasmodema setigerum* (Usinger) Wygodzinsky, y al mismo tiempo elevó esta subfamilia al rango de familia *Elasmodemidae* Leth. & Sev. (1896), colocándola en la superfamilia *Reduvioidea*.

Ahora, como dije antes, ha sido encontrada la tercera especie de este género y esta familia, proveniente de la provincia de Santiago del Estero, de la República Argentina.

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(1) Los autores escriben *Elasmodemidae*, no obstante tratarse de subfamilia.

Dedico esta especie a mi muy estimado amigo señor Juan M. Bosq, y la llamo: *Elasmodema bosqi* n.sp.

Mucho agradezco al doctor Pedro Wygodzinsky la gentileza y celeridad con que me remitió, en carácter de donación, el material de *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal para compararlo con la especie nueva.

Elasmodema **bosqi** n. sp.

Elongated-oval, body extremely flattened. Head subpentagonal, arcuate, behind at the middle, slightly broader than long across the eyes (28:25), transversely divided into two lobes by an arcuate impression between the eyes. Compressed behind eyes and then once more dilated; finely punctate above, ventraly with slightly stronger punctuations. Ocelli distinct, located laterally on the posterior lobe. Tylus and juga distinctly but slightly produced between antenniferous tubercles. Tylus open. Rostrum curved, short and stout, reaching stridulatory groove of anterior prosternal process. The first segment, thickest, with four little setigerous tubercles at base, visible from above; the second, slightly more slender; the third the most slender of the three, one third as thick as the second at the base; proportion of length, one to three, 7:7:4,5.

Antenniferous tubercles distinctly visible from above. Antennae hardly longer than head, pronotum and scutellum together. The first segment, the thickest, ovate, with four stout setigerous tubercles; the second, cylindrical, a little dilated at base, with rows of setigerous tubercles; the third and the fourth, filiform, with scattered bristles or fines spines; these are more numerous at the apical end of the fourth Proportion of segments, one to four, are: 8:30:16:17,5.

Head with stout setigerous tubercles: a) from above: one between antenniferous tubercle and eye; several lateral and distal on the posterior lobe of the head near ocelli; b) from below: group of four at each side of rostrum near eyes.

Pronotum trapezoidal, broad, arcuated behind; one and a half times as broad as long (55:37), divided into four lobes by longitudinal and arcuate transversal depressions; proximal lobes very finely punctate; distal lobes, granular with small scattered setigerous tubercles. Lateral and distal margins with a row of stouter setigerous tubercles. Medial depression is proximally very narrow and deep, dilated and more shallow towards the back.

Scutellum broad and short; three times as broad as long, with medial depression divergent, proximally and posteriorly; divided into two lobes. A meso-metathoracic plate is visible behind the scutellum.

Hemelytrae complete, with distinct division on corium, clavus and membrane. Venation simple. Membrane with three simple veins, which do not form cells and do not reach apical margin. Hemelytrae cover nearly whole of abdomen, but leave connexivum free. Surface of corium and clavus roughly granulated. Basal parts of lateral margin of corium and R-vein provided with a row of small setigerous tubercles.

Connexivum, dorsally and ventrally, with a row of short, stout bristles near lateral margin. Sixth and seventh segments of connexivum with a very long and very strong bristle, dorsally, at the middle of distal margin.

Prosternum and meso-metasternum form a ventral plate-like surface. Prosternum proximally narrowed and extended plate-wise, ending apically with a short, broad, oblique, transversly striated, stridulatory groove; at each side of groove are two stout setigerous tubercles. Behind the anterior coxae are one or two very strong, spine-like, curved, setigerous tubercles.

Meso-and metasternum are not separated and form a single subquadrate plate divided from prosternum by a forwardly arcuate suture. On the proximal part of meso-metasternum, between mesocoxae and towards proximal margin, are situated S-like openings of thoracic scent-glands. Prosternum and meso-metasternum with a row of setigerous tubercles at lateral margin. Anterolateral parts of prosternum globately extended and provided with numerous stout setigerous tubercles, visible at each side of pronotum from above. Pro-and meso-metasternum finely punctate and with small scattered setigerous tubercles.

Abdomen flat, finely punctate and sparsely beset with small scattered bristles. Stigmata concolorous, located sublaterally, a little forward of middle of each segment. Seventh ventral segment sinuate, anteriorly, and nearly straight posteriorly. Eigth tergite dorsally forms a plate-like extension. Ninth tergite is vertical, broad and short, with depression on the disk. Tenth tergite is reduced to a short, broad, posteriorly arcuate lobe at apex of ninth tergite. Ventrites of eighth tergite are located on either side of ninth tergite and bear spiracles and several small setigerous tubercles. Whole complex of 8-10 tergites, very broad and short. Ninth tergite also with small scattered setigerous tubercles and two long, stout bristles. (Fig. 1).

Coxae located laterally, short, suboval, beset with small setigerous tubercles and subflattened on ventral surface.

Trochanters nearly as long as coxae, apically enlarged and also beset with setigerous tubercles.

Front femora proximally incrassate, 3,54 times longer than wide near base, a little longer than tibia and with four rows of stout setigerous tubercles: two on inner face and two on outer face. The most prominent is the row on inner side, composed of 12 to 13 strong, spine-like, setigerous tubercles of very different length. Between the rows of stout setigerous tubercles small ones are scattered.

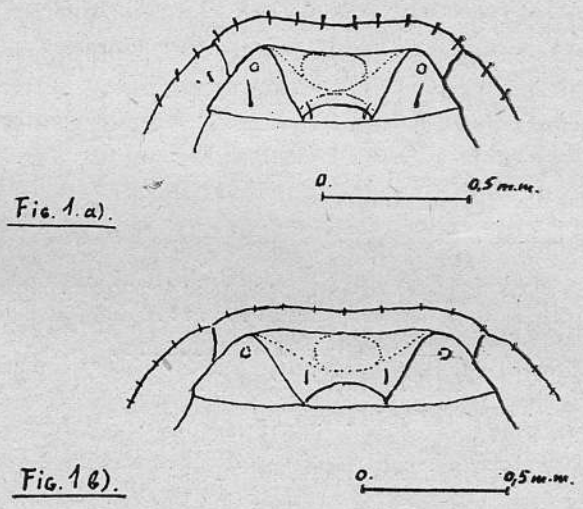

Fig. 1. — Ventral view of genital segments: a) *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal. b) *Elasmodema bosqi* n. sp.

Middle and hind femora regularly but less incrassate than front femora, also with rows of big and small scattered setigerous tubercles.

Tibiae longitudinally impressed above and beneath between the rows of setigerous tubercles intermitant with stout, long bristles. Front tibiae with stout process at the apex, terminating with claw-like tubercle. Between this tubercle and base of tarsi a white comb-like process. Other tibiae simple.

Tarsi two-segmented, proportion, one to two, 3:7. Claws simple.

Color black-brown, brown and rufous with yellow. From above: head: black-brown, antenniferous tubercles and front-apex brownish. Antennae: first and second segments brown, third and fourth yellowish. Pronotum: anterior lobes brown, apically in the middle and two fulvous shades latero-distally; posterior lobes fulvous, lighter distally

near the middle of scutellum. Prosternum fulvous. Front coxae and trochanters yellow. Distal 3/5 of front femora black-brown, proximally and extreme apex ligther brown to fulvous. Tibiae and second joint of tarsi black-brown, first joint yellowish. Middle and hind femora black-brown, proximally broad and apically less fulvous to yellowish; tibiae and tarsi similar to front tibiae and tarsi. Scultellum black-brown, in the middle broadly ligther. Corium, except the base, clavus and membrane, black-brown. Connexivum black-brown, each segment proximally with white-yellowish spot.

From below: Head black-brown, rostrum brown, prosternum yellow-brown with darker spot in the middle; coxae, trochanters, meso-metasternum rufous with indefinite yellowish spots. Abdomen brown, with indefinite darker and and lighter spots.

Female. Size: body length 5,2 mm.; pronotum width 1,4 mm.; abdomen width 2,0 mm.

Proportion:	body length	100 %
	pronotum width	28,3 ,,
	abdomen width	41,4 ,,
	front femora length	23,3 ,,
	front femora width near base	6,6 ,,

Holotype: female. Patria: Campo Gallo, provincia Santiago del Estero, República Argentina. Juin 1933. Juan M. Bosq, collector. Holotype is conserved in "Collection Bosq", Buenos Aires.

This species is closely allied to *Elasmodema erichsoni* Stal (1858), from which differs in the:

	Elasmodema erichsoni Stal	*Elasmodema bosqi* n. sp.
1) Abdomen with relation to pronotum	narrower, proportion of width of pronotum to abdomen 100:139.	...wider, proportion 100:146,5.
2) Relative length of segments antennal one to four	8,5:31,5:21:23.	...8:30:16:17,5.
3) Front femora ...	longer and narrower, proportion of length to width 3,85:1.	...shorter and wider, proportion of length to width 3,54:1.
4) Setigerous tubercles of inner side of front femora	16 or 17 strong setigerous tubercles of different length.	...only 12 or 13 strong setigerous tubercles.
5) Bristles at the apex of the third joint of rostrum	stouter and longer.	...finer and shorter.

6) Scutellum	medial depression is deep and reaches 2/3 of the length of scutellum; lateral lobes are very distinct and high.	...medial depression is not so deep, reaching hardly to 1/2 of the length of scutellum; lateral lobes are flatted.
7) Short and stout bristles at the dorsal and ventral side of margin of connexivum ...	more robust and longer.	...finer and shorter.
8) Very long and strong bristles at the distal margin of the 6-th and the 7-th segment of connexivum are	stouter and longer.	...finer and shorter.
9) The whole comlex of genital segments (8-10)	narrower, proportion of width to length is 33:10.	... wider, proportion of width to length is 40:10.
10) Long and stout bristles (1 + 1) on genital segments are located at	on the 8-th (1 + 1) very long and strong; on the 10-th (1 +) shorter and finer.	...only on the 9-th (1+1) and they are shorter and finer.
11) Color from above	black-brown and yellow.	black-brown and rufous.

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